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6 December 1960

OPERATIONS POLICY LETTER NUMBER 12

SUBJECT: Risk of Capture Briefing of Pilots Engaged in Overflight
of the Communist Bloc

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy letter is to set forth procedures for the risk-of-capture briefing of selected pilots for overflight of the Communist Bloc and the criteria to be utilized in the assessment of the pilots. Only pilots whose background can be freely disclosed will be selected for the program.

2. GENERAL:

a. Each pilot will be assessed on his ability to resist capture and interrogation. The assessment will include careful review and analysis of information from Security, Personnel, and Medical files, including the CIA psychiatric evaluation of the individual. The assessment will also include any other information bearing on the pilot's personality and character make-up. The assessment will be conducted by a team composed of representatives from Director of Security, Counter Intelligence, Technical Services Division, Medical Staff, and Office of Special Activities.

b. The risk-of-capture briefing of the pilot will be predicated upon the following factors:

(1) Authorized disclosures - will include that information which the pilot may reveal; namely, name, date and place of birth, address in the United States, and the fact that he is a civilian employee of CIA, together with an explanation and briefing as to the reasons for limiting the permissible disclosures.

(2) Recognizing that basic instructions initially limit disclosures to name, birth date, ZI address, and CIA affiliation, and that stringent and prolonged interrogation may necessitate more extensive disclosures, it is proposed that

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the briefing will include secondary disclosures on the assumption that the pilot cannot under physical duress resist for an extended period. The secondary disclosures will consist of elements of the pilot's personal background and other areas of his experience prior to his joining the CIA.

c. Subsequent to the completion of the assessment and the outline of the authorized disclosures in a. and b. above, the pilot will be briefed by teams composed of representatives from the Security and Medical Offices. The briefing will consist of reading of prepared literature, CIA policy on risk-of-capture, and presentation of known methods of Soviet and ChiCom interrogation techniques, the various methods of resistance to such techniques, and conditions of living under Soviet detention. A further assessment of the pilot will be conducted as a by-product of the briefings and discussions.

d. The pilot will be rebriefed by the Senior Security Officer just prior to the execution of any particular mission. This rebriefing will consist of a synopsis of the risk-of-capture briefing together with any last minute changes dictated by the cover or operating factors of that particular mission. In addition, the last minute briefing will include a restatement of the basic principles of resistance to interrogation. The Senior Security Officer will carry out a detailed search and inspection procedure of the personal belongings and equipment carried by the pilot to ensure that no papers, records, or other information inconsistent with the basic cover and secondary cover story is carried by the pilot on his mission.

3. The above program for the risk-of-capture briefings of pilots is predicated on the basic premise that the pilot will use every possible means to escape and evade capture.



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